Unused World Bank aid with the Railways

1428. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "WB aid for Railways lying unused" which appreared in the 'Financial Express' dated the 4th January, 1995;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the loan amount of 13.277 million dollars received from World Bank is lying unused;

(c) if not, what is the total amount received by the Railways from the World Bank by the end of December, 1994 and out of this, the amount lying unused; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are paying commitment charges on this unused amount; if so, what is the amount paid to the World Bank as commitment charges during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Railways have so far received from the World Bank, 9 IDA Credits amounting to US $ 951.5 million since 1963 and the entire amount has been utilised. World Bank also made available 8 IBRD loans amounting to US $ 857 million since 1949 out of which US $ 850 million was utilised. The balance amount of US $ 7 million was cancelled by World Bank in Aug, '93 on the expiry of the last of these loans (Loan No. 2417—IN).

Another loan (No. 2935-IN) obtained from World Bank is currently under execution. This loan is valid upto Dec., 1995. Out of the loan amount of US $ 252.5 million, US $ 237.4 million has already been claimed from the World Bank upto the end of Dec., '1994. The balance US $ 15.1 million is expected to be utilised before the loan closing date, i.e. 31 Dec., '1995.

(d) As per Loan Agreement Government have to pay to the World Bank a commitment charge at the rate of 0.75% per annum on the principal amount of the loan not withdrawn from time to time. An amount of US $ 10,06,089 has been paid to World Bank as commitment charges during the last three years.

Maintenance of Amritsar—Delhi Shatabdi Express

1429. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maintenance of Shatabadi Express which was done previously in Amritsar, is now being done in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that maintenance and change of rake, that is being done in Delhi, is leading to many difficulties and inconvenience for the staff; and

(d) if so, whether the maintenance of Shatabdi Express will resume at Amritsar?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This has been done to centralise the maintenance of Shatabdi type trains at New Delhi to improve the utilisation of coaches.